

**VOL 3 - ISSUE 12 THE ATARI FEDERATION
7 December 1987**

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MEETINGS:

Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the VAFB Federal Credit Union, Vandenberg Village, California.

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership in The Atari Federation is open to all persons interested in the Atari personal computer. Dues are \$10.00 per calendar year (\$15.00 per family) and are collected on the member's anniversary date. Membership includes a subscription to this newsletter and access to The Federation's library of public domain software.

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**THE ATARI FEDERATION
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Vandenberg AFB, Ca 93437**



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By: Shirl A. Dellinger

For months I have been trying to think of how to write my last President's Column - and I'm still not sure about it, but here goes.

I've been a member of the Atari Federation since that first meeting at the base library, three years ago. In that time I have been a general member, Librarian, Treasurer, and for two years straight I have been your President. You as members of this club and the club in general have given me just what I needed & hoped to get out of the group that first night I walked into a room of 14 men and myself. I had this computer that in my mind was capable of doing more than I knew, and I thought there must be people out there that could teach me what I needed and wanted to learn. That you did - if asked what one thing has made computing fun, interesting, and full of surprises, I would have to say being a member of a user group.

I have met alot of really nice people in that time and each one of you have taught me something. Some more than others, but I have learned - and learned alot! Some of you taught me how to run, and edit my software. Others have helped me see what it takes to run a 3 hour meeting, and hold the peoples attention. So to all of you that have given me ideas, help, information and yes even criticism I would like to say thank you. To those of you that have become good friends over the past 3 years, a special thank you! For without those of you that allowed me to call and tap your brain I don't think I could have pulled it off. I don't have the space to list each and everyone that has helped me over the years, I'll just have to hope you know who you are, and that I have time to thank you at one of the few meetings I have left.

I would also like to thank all the officers I have worked with over the years. To a general member it might look like some of the other officers don't do much - but believe you as they work, and work hard. Each and every officer does his/her part, sometimes much more. No one person could run a club, any club, and I will be the last to say I did it alone. So thank you all, its been great working with all of you.

At this time I would like to single out two people that have been of more help than any of you are aware. This first person has taught me, and most of you something about our machines, weather it was how to get a program to run, or what to POKE where, and when. For at least 15 of us he taught us how to spend hours on end in front of the computer trying to break one of his programs... Yes I would like to thank Paul Alhart for his support over the years, for letting me tap

into his well of knowledge, for helping me with the meeting format, for adding his two cents when I needed it most. For offering ideas to better the meetings, and answering my dumb questions. Thank you Paul, for without you and your idea's this officer and the club might have been worse for the wear.

The other person has been right there for the last year and a half, and with out his help I really don't know what I would have done. He has helped me with problems within the group, given me idea's, yelled at me when I needed it and even when I didn't. I am speaking of Chester Hadley, with whom I have tossed almost every idea at to get his feelings and opinions. Thank you also Chester, and thank your family for putting up with the tons of phone calls it has taken us to get things worked out.

This article sounds like I'm dropping out of sight. Well, I am sort of, see I will be leaving Calif. sometime in January for a new home, Eglin AFB, in Florida. I do plan on staying a member of the Federation, but I will be joining the ranks of our out of area members, and like most of them, I too plan on being as active as possible in the group. So don't think you have seen the last newsletter article from me - NO WAY - I'll just be moving from one page to another.

Writing this article makes me reflect over the years and a few highlights that come to mind are, our open house, building the light pens, my first demo, (if you missed it - WOW what a demo), the Basic SIG, ACENET, and of course the Hacker's Challenge. With those in the past I hope that this December meeting goes down into the Federation history books as well.

Which brings me to the December meeting. This month will bring us a fun night, a chance to chat with members, copy library disks, see some interesting demo's and eat some good food. I hope to see each of you at this meeting. Everyone is welcome!!

I know all of you that have helped me over the years, will continue to do the same for your new officers. To Bob Ribortone, as I turn over the first page of the newsletter to you, I wish you well as President, and I wish all the new officers and the club many years of good luck, good computing and fun meetings.

Thank you & good luck,



The first DOM is full of Koala Pictures on both sides. We will have a listing of the pictures at the meeting so you can see what is on each side. The program that makes this DOM really exciting is called SEEPIC. This program will not only display your pictures like a slide show but will also print your pictures to the printer if your printer has the capability. I have a Gemini SG-10 and it works fine. I have not seen this program before and I think it is really neat. I'm sure we will have time to demo this disk at the meeting for anybody that wants to take a look.

The second DOM has modem programs on one side and utilities on the other side. Highlights are as follows:

Side A:

EXP850.V3 - This is version 3.0 of Express 850 modem program which is the latest version available. This has some added capabilities that make what was already an excellent program better. Documentation is on the disk but I will also have a print of the documentation at the meeting for

everybody to read and see what the increased capabilities are.

ARC12.COM - This is a program that is used to compress and combine files into a single ".ARC" file for transfer over a modem. Less time is spent uploading and downloading files from a BBS and also allows both program and documentation to be combined into a single file. The ARC format is identical on the 8-BIT, ST, and PC. This program was ported over from the IBM to the 8-BIT using LIGHTSPEED C, a small C compiler for the 8-BIT Atari.

ARCX12.COM - Used to extract files from an ".ARC" file.

ARC.DOC - Documentation for ARC12.COM and ARCX12.COM.

Side B:

BASICON.COM - Enables basic.

BASICOFF.COM - Disables basic.

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The second entry of this month is ST Writer Elite. This version has been greatly enhanced over prior versions. We are also in the process of having the manual for this program printed out on a laser printer and bound in a nice folder. Now all this work will increase the price of this disk slightly, but let me assure you it will be well worth it.

Finally, I would like to pass on that I had the opportunity to visit one of the new Federated (Atari) Stores this past weekend. The change was dramatic to say the least. They now carry the whole line of Atari Computers (as well as all the video game machines). They still haven't been able to get as much software as they would like, but they were over loaded with hardware, including the new 80-column adapter. The hardware prices were very reasonable (1040ST color system \$995.00), and their software prices are at least comparable with/or lower than local prices. Unlike many of the local stores Federated is carrying a full line of 8-bit hardware and software. If your looking for something special for Christmas, this could be the place for you to look.

A-T-A-R-I

Answers-Tips-and-Relevant Information

by: Paul Alhart

As most of you know I service disk drives. Most service requires nothing more than cleaning. Over the years many people have asked me if they can clean their own disk drives. My answer has always been, "If you have to ask, then NO". Cleaning disks do not always do a very good job and (going inside) is the only effective way to clean a drive. The inside of your disk drive is a delicate, precision, complex piece of electro/mechanical equipment. However, with a little caution it is really very easy to clean it yourself. At the December meeting I will show you how it is done. Gary Williams has offered to sacrifice his 1050 drive for this demo. Even if you don't want to clean your drive you will find it interesting just to see what is inside and what makes it tick. Don't forget that this will be a special meeting. Bring along your whole family, some cookies, and be ready to have a great time.

I also want to take this opportunity to tell Shirl that she will be missed. This will be Shirl's last meeting with us before her move to Florida. We have all seen The Atari Federation grow into a mature organization with Shirl as President the past two years. Let's all work to keep it that way by supporting Bob in the coming year. Thank you Shirl for

all your hard work. It HAS been noticed and it HAS been appreciated.

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DEMO

By: Shirl A. Dellinger

The only set demo we have this month will be Paul Alhart who is going to show all of us how to clean the head on our disk drives.

As for other Demonstration's this month - we'll have what ever you want to bring and show one or all of us! If everyone brings nothing - then there will be nothing.

If that's the case then that will mean more time to copy library disks, as we will have both libraries and both systems there for you to copy disks. Little side note, if you purchased DBASIC from the club we will have the newest upgraded version at this meeting for you to copy.

The following people are to bring equipment:

Complete 8-bit system - Juan Ruiz

Complete ST system - Charlie Rominger &
Bob Ribortone

8-bit Library - Dennis Botts

16-bit Library - Phil Rominger

1050 Disk Drive - Gary Williams

Demo's - ANYONE!!!!

"Please don't forget these items!"

Computer Friends has two main units, the Universal Cartridge Mac Inker, and the Universal Spool Mac

Inker. These two units will support about 90% of all fabric ribbons in use today. So you can bet they have a machine to fit your needs. Plus you can purchase an inker that is made to do only your printer's ribbons, which most often means a small savings. If you purchase one of the universal units, for an additional \$8.50 you can purchase additional drivers which would ink another type of cartridge, for a different printer. Each unit comes with all you need to start re-inking at least 5 ribbons. If you have a shorter ribbon than the Star NX-10 you would be able to re-ink more than 5 ribbons. They also sell ink in two different size bottles, (2 oz. & 1 pint), and the ink comes in 9 different colors, (blue, green, red, brown, yellow, purple, gold & silver), not counting black. The gold & silver do cost a little more. If they sell the MAC INKER for your printer they also carry

blank, (un-inked) ribbons, ribbon refills, and complete cartridges or spools for your system.

I haven't had the MAC INKER very long and I haven't re-inked very many ribbons, but I do feel that this machine was and will remain to be one of the best investments I have made for my computer system in a long time. If you do alot of printing, (and you can bet I do), you sould check out the MAC INKER.

If your interested in learning more about the MAC INKER, contact the company at the address listed below:

Computer Friends
14250 NW Science Park Dr.
Portland, OR 97229
(503) 626-2291

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973 FOOTHILL BLVD. #4
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(805)544-8347

HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS
from
Paul & Dave

We will be fat in software and accessories for the Holidays, so now will be a good time to see what's new. F-15 strike eagle, marble madness, music construction set and others titles are already here with lots more to follow.



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